



Institute for Development
of Freedom of Information

The background of the cover is a dark blue, semi-transparent image. It features a stethoscope in the center, with its chest piece resting on a surface. Behind the stethoscope are several medical charts or documents. Some of the text visible on these charts includes 'HEALTH CARE', 'PHARMAC', and 'OPTICUS'. The overall aesthetic is professional and medical.

**STATISTICS OF THE USE OF THE GEORGIAN
HEALTHCARE PROGRAMS ON THE
OCCUPIED TERRITORIES OF GEORGIA
IN 2019-2020**

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Key findings:

- Since 2017, there has been a decrease in the number of patients from Abkhazia and Tskhinvali region, using the referral program of Georgia. Also, the amount of money requested from the budget for funding them has decreased.
- Similarly to 2014-2017, 1,402 patients from Abkhazia and 424 from the Tskhinvali region applied to the referral program.
- Similarly to 2014-2017, in 2018-2019, within the frame of the referral program, the patients from the occupied regions of Georgia mostly addressed to the Georgian hospitals in the case of oncological and onco-hematological diseases.
- Within the frame of the Universal Healthcare Program, in 2018-2020, patients from the occupied regions of Georgia, mostly used ambulatory services. Totally, 817,675 GEL was spent on this.
- According to the amount requested from the budget, within the frame of the Universal Healthcare Program, the greatest amount was spent on the stationary (77,230,754.53 GEL), pre-planned surgical (12,255,903.54 GEL) and ambulatory (12,255,903.54 GEL) services.
- In 2018-2020, more people from Abkhazia referred to the Universal Healthcare Program than from the Tskhinvali region.
- In 2019, on the territory of Abkhazia as well as in the Tskhinvali region, the number of users of the Universal Healthcare Program increased compared to 2018 but then, until October 2020 there was a noticeable decrease, which can be related to the COVID-19 restrictions.

Introduction

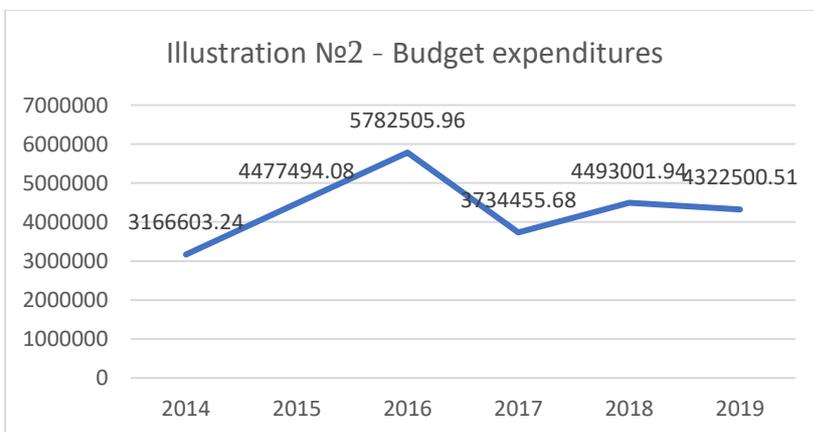
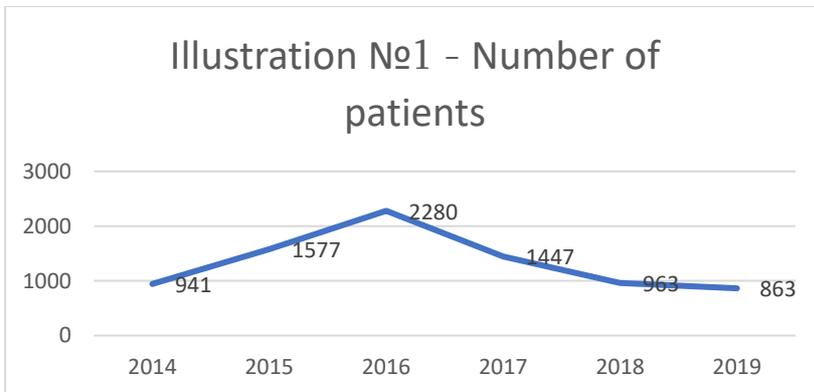
According to Georgia's official [policy](#) toward the occupied regions, the state is responsible to elaborate the proposals and formats for the peace process on the occupied territories and engage in the peace-making process. This policy also encompasses the provision of healthcare for the patients living on the occupied territories of Georgia (the Occupied Autonomous Republic of Abkhazia and Former Autonomous District of South Ossetia) within the frame of the Referral Service Provision State Program

In 2018, IDFI addressed the Ministry of Health, Labour and Social Affairs of Georgia to request statistical information about the users of hospital services in 2014-2017. Based on the data received from the Ministry, IDFI published a report with key findings. In order to assess the effectiveness of the specific aspects of Georgia's policy toward the occupied territories and to find out to what extent the persons living there have used the suggested programs since 2018, IDFI addressed to the Ministry once again in 2020. The organization requested the following information:

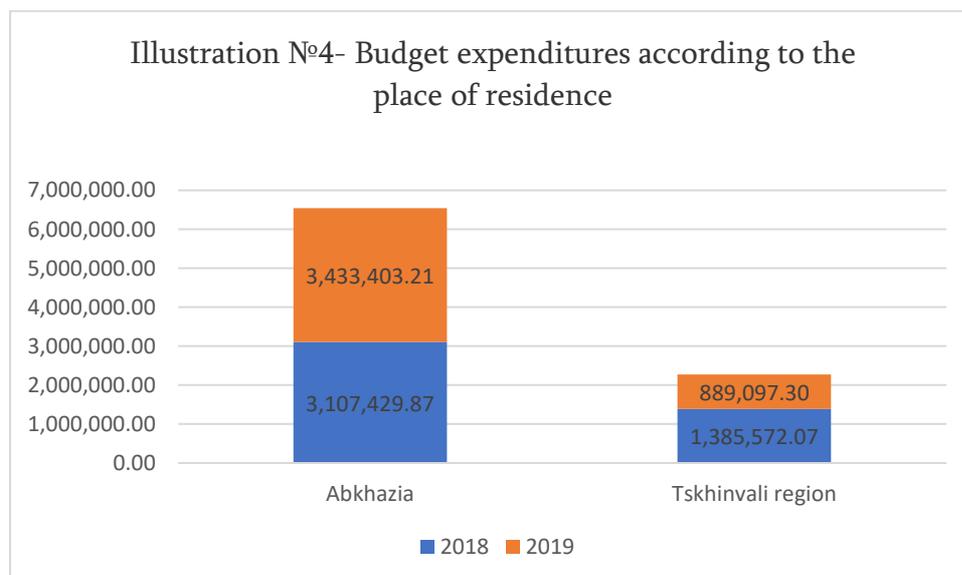
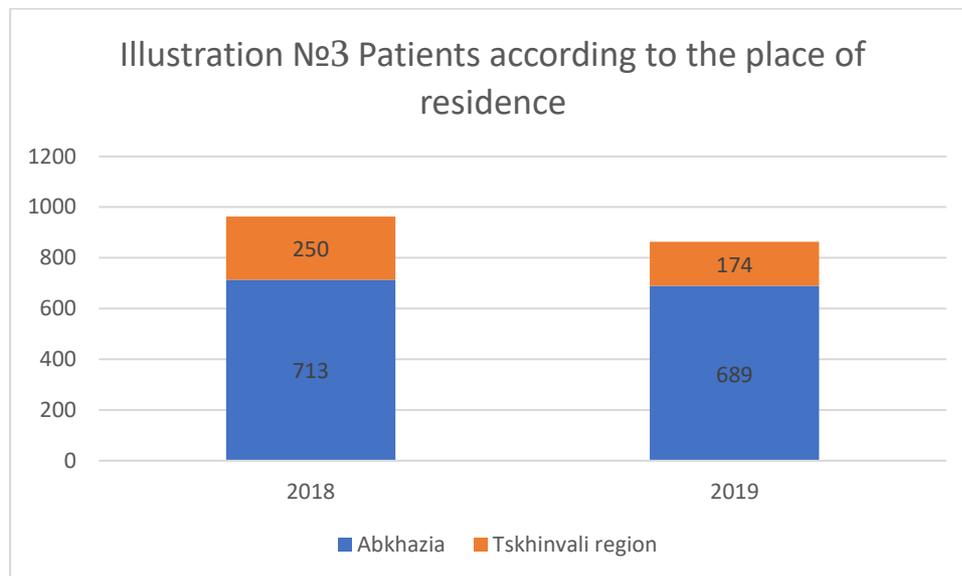
1. Statistical data about the users of Georgia’s Universal Healthcare System on the occupied territories of Abkhazia and South Ossetia in 2018-2020 according to the types of service and state expenses.
2. Statistical data about the users of Georgia’s Referral Service Provision State Program on the occupied territories of Abkhazia and South Ossetia in 2018-2020 according to the types of service and state expenses.

Statistical Data about the Users of Georgia’s Referral Service Provision State Program on the Occupied Territories of Georgia

Based on the statistical data about the users of Georgia’s Referral Service Provision Program received from the Ministry of Health, Labour and Social Affairs of Georgia, in 2018, 1,669 cases and 963 patients were monitored in total (1,317 from Abkhazia (713 patients) and 352 from former South Ossetia (250 patients)). As for the amount spent from the budget, in 2018, 4,493,001.95 GEL was spent in total. In 2019, 1,552 cases and 863 patients were registered (1,305 from Abkhazia (689 patients) and 247 from former South Ossetia (174 patients)) and the amount spent from the budget was 4,322,500.51 GEL. This means that, since 2017, the number of users of Georgia’s healthcare programs from the occupied territories as well as the amount spent from the budget on them has decreased.



Additionally, this data shows that similarly to 2014-2017, among the users of the state healthcare programs, more were from Abkhazia (1,402 patients) from the Tskhinvali region (424 patients).



Similarly to 2014-2017, in 2018-2019, the majority of the patients from the occupied territories addressed to the Georgian hospitals due to oncological and oncohematological diseases. In 2018-2019, the Georgian hospitals received 1,576 such patients in total, which is more than the same number monitored in 2014-2017 (1,478 patients). Still, in 2018-2019, 2,880,301.61 GEL was spent on such patients from the budget in total, which is less than the amount spent in 2014-2017 (3,180,638.76 GEL) (see Illustrations №5, №6 and №7).

Illustration №5 - Patients and budget expenditures according to the disease types

Pathology	Number of patients	Amount (GEL)
Oncology / Oncohematology	1,576	2,880,301.61
Cardiology and Cardiac Surgery	316	1,604,395.71
General Surgery and Gynecology	270	527,881.23
Other	227	1,198,651.94
Hepatitis and other infectious pathology	161	376,491.42
Neurosurgery and Neurology	147	669,268.17
Ophthalmology	91	189,556.32
Urology / Nephrology	86	220,542.77
Polytrauma and Trauma	76	320,187.37
Pulmonology	72	202,331.14
Angiology	61	274,841.5
Benign tumors	56	150,868.12
Endocrinology	40	109,515.16
Diseases of the digestive system	37	87,483.19
Systemic	5	3,186.8

Illustration №6 - Patients according to the disease type

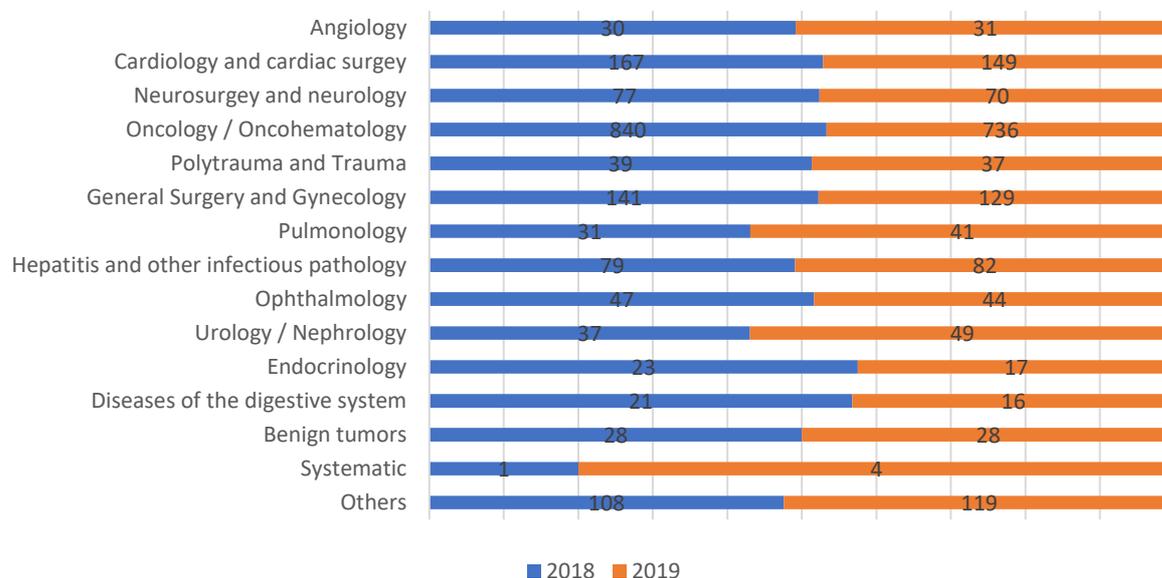
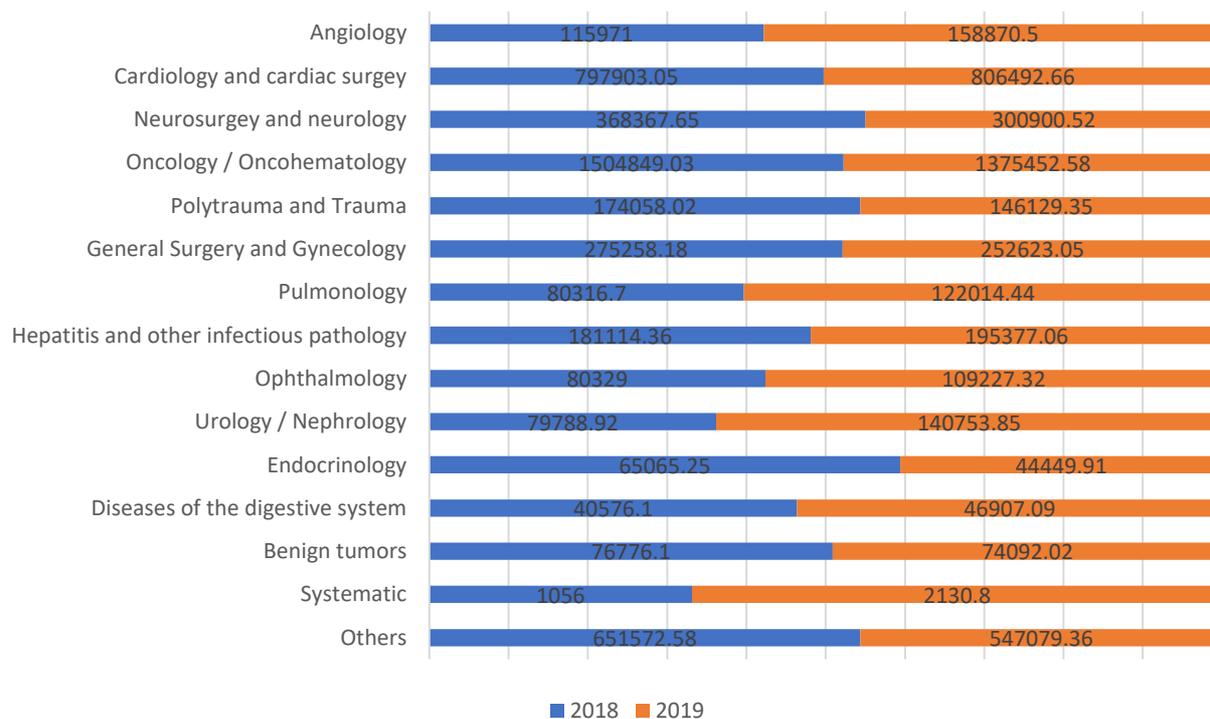
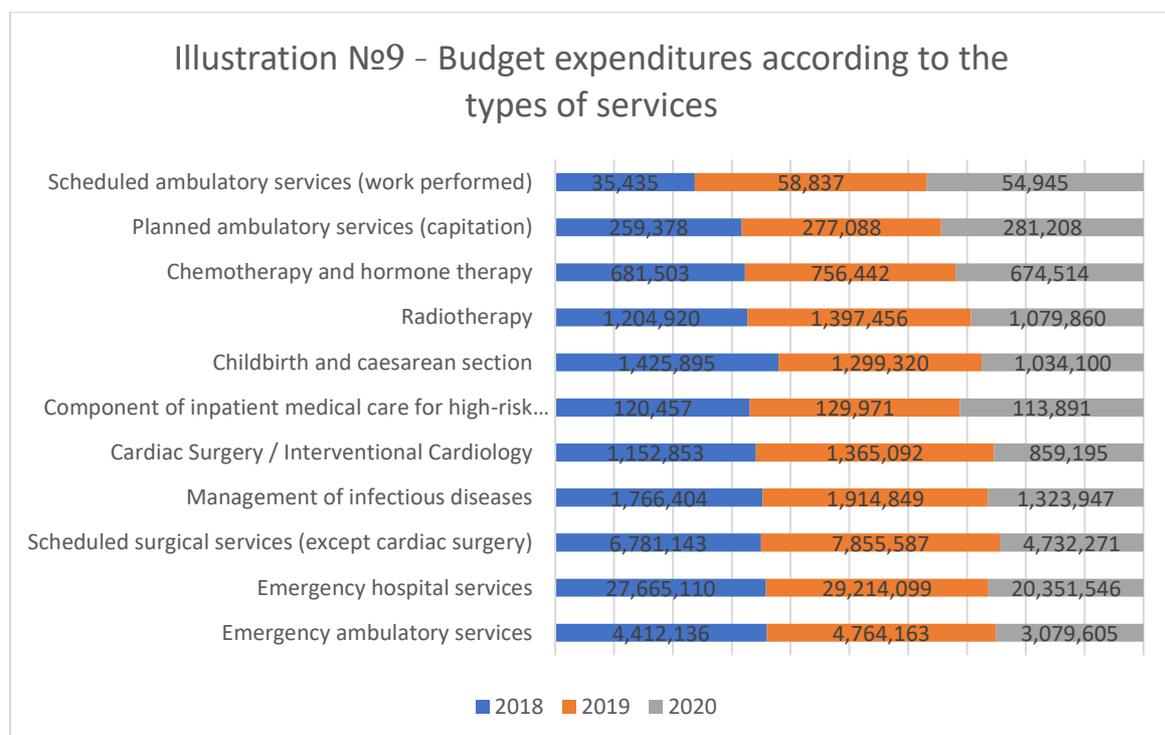
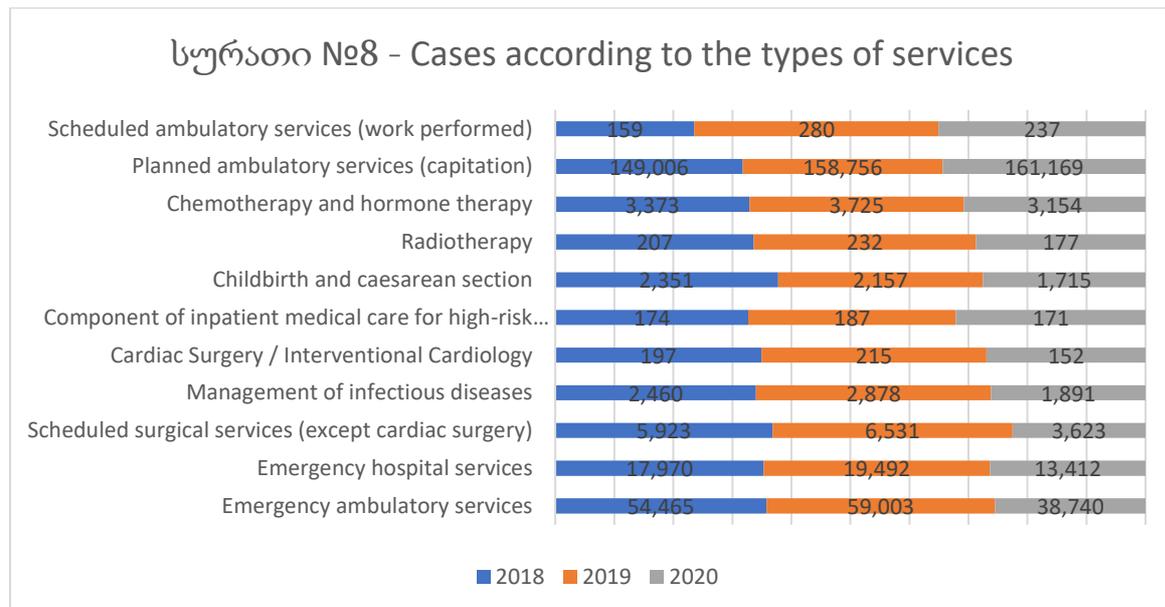


Illustration №7 - Budget expenditure according to the disease type



Statistical data about the Users of Georgia’s Universal Healthcare System on the Occupied Territories of Georgia

The Ministry of Health, Labour and Social Affairs of Georgia provided IDFI with the information about the users of Georgia’s Universal Healthcare System on the occupied territories of Georgia, including the number of cases and requested amount from the budget (illustration №8, №9).



Based on the information received from the Ministry, within the frame of the Universal Healthcare System, patients mostly addressed to the hospital services, on which 817,675 GEL was spent from the budget in total. The greatest amount from the budget was spent on emergency hospital services (77,230,754.53 GEL), scheduled surgical services (77,230,754.53 GEL) and urgent ambulatory services (12,255,903.54 GEL).

Illustration №10 – Number of cases and budget expenditure according to the service types in 2018-2020		
Component	Cases	Requested amount
Planned outpatient services (capitation)	468,931	817,675.03
Emergency ambulatory services	152,208	12,255,903.54
Emergency hospital services	50,874	77,230,754.53
Scheduled surgical services (except cardiac surgery)	16,077	19,369,000.73
Chemotherapy and hormone therapy	10,252	2,112,459.06
Management of infectious diseases	7,229	5,005,199.89
Childbirth and caesarean section	6,223	3,759,315
Scheduled ambulatory services (work performed)	676	149,217.45
Radiotherapy	616	3,682,236.05
Cardiac Surgery / Interventional Cardiology	564	3,377,140.9
Component of inpatient medical care for high-risk pregnant women, obstetricians and midwives	532	364,319.25

Moreover, according to the data, in 2018-2020, within the frame of the Universal Healthcare System, more cases were monitored in Abkhazia (647,135) than in the Tskhinvali region (67,047). Also, the amount spent from the budget was greater in the case of Abkhazia (115,017,980 GEL) than the Tskhinvali region (13,105,242 GEL). The same data reveals that, in 2019, the number of users of the Universal Healthcare System increased compared to 2018 but there had been a decrease until 2020, which can be related to the COVID-19 restrictions. The same tendency is evident in the Tskhinvali region (illustration №11, №12).

